



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE FRED CAMILLO
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Testimony

In support of H.B. 5975 AA Prohibiting Municipalities From Adopting Breed Specific Dangerous Dog Ordinances

Planning and Development Committee
February 20, 2013

Dear Senator Cassano, Senator Fasano, Rep. Rojas, and Rep. Aman and members of the Planning and Development Committee:

I'm sorry that I couldn't be here in person to speak at this hearing for HB 5975, AA Prohibiting Municipalities From Adopting Breed Specific Dangerous Dog Ordinances. We all love our family pets. As a lifelong owner of pets as well as current owner of a German Shepherd Dog, I know just how attached people are to their best friends. Therefore, I believe the very concept of ordinances banning specific breeds to be both discriminatory and without merit. Whether they target Pit Bulls, Doberman Pinschers, and yes, even my beloved German Shepherd Dogs, it is wrong to cast a wide net of suspicion over whole breeds when aggression is almost always caused by human training and behavior, and certainly not committed on a breed-wide basis. If there is anyone in the room who owns a Pit Bull, often the number one breed cited, they will most likely tell you stories of what a puppy-like dog they have living with them.

Towns and cities in our state should not condemn whole breeds and instead do as they do with individual human beings that exhibit anti-social behavior. Dealing with situations on a case by case basis is not only the moral and fair way to approach each issue, it makes the most sense, too, as to ban all members of certain breeds would mean even more stress on budgets when it comes to housing the pets at shelters.

Again, thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Fred Camillo
State Representative

Please visit my website at www.repfredcamillo.com